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There Is a Carrot in My Ear and Other Noodle Tales



Retold by Alvin Schwartz
Pictures by Karen Ann Weinhaus

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There Is a Carrot in My Ear





 **HarperTrophy®**
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and Other Noodle Tales

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Pictures by

Karen Ann Weinhaus



An I CAN READ Book®

For Nina
and Robert

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(An I can read book)

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of silly people, based on noodle folklore from America,
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Foreword

A noodle is a silly person.
This book is about
a family of noodles
and the silly things
they say and do.



They are Mr. and Mrs. Brown,



and Sam and Jane,



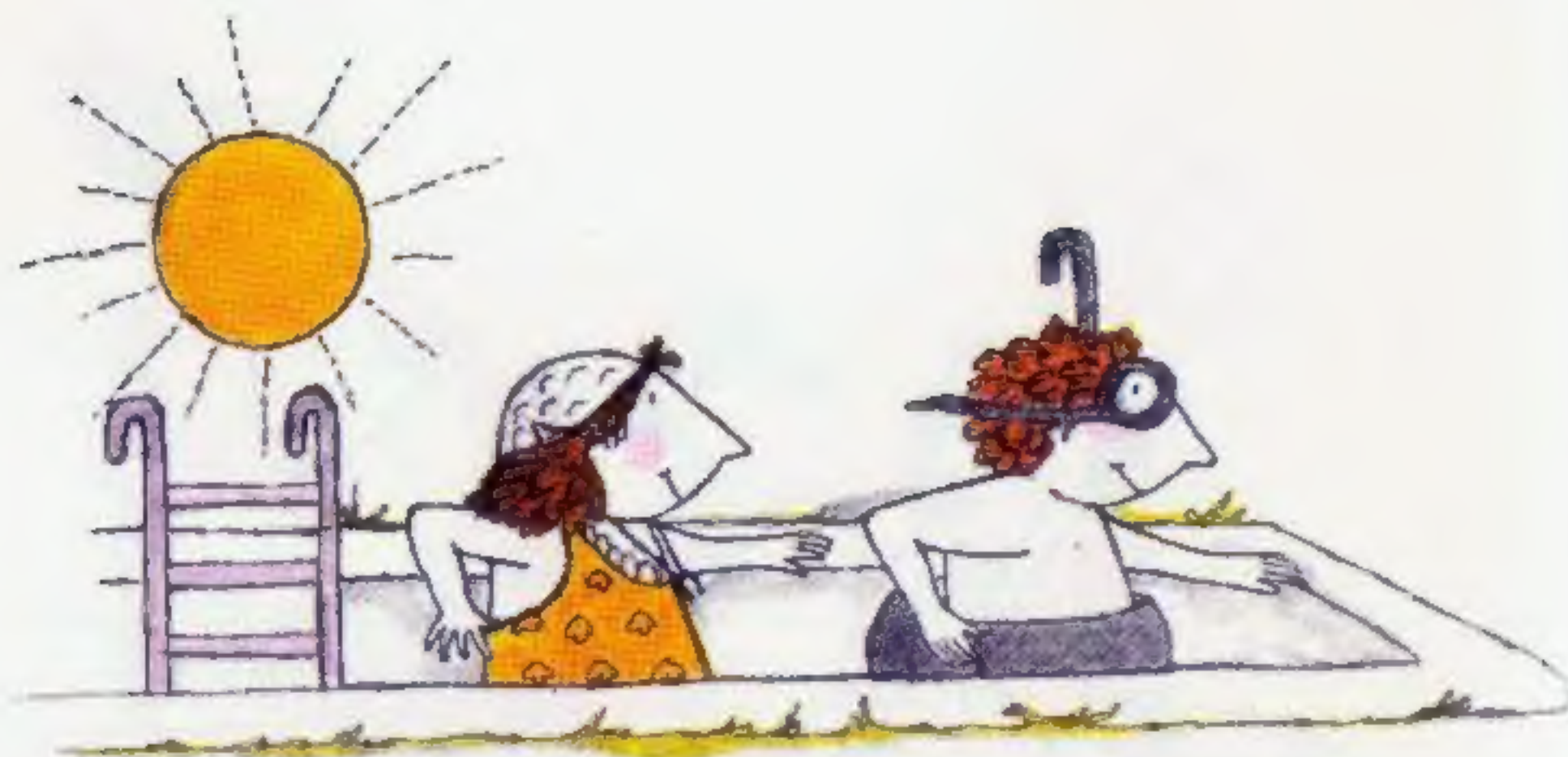
and Grandpa.



1. The Browns Take the Day Off

It was a hot day.

So Mr. Brown took his family
to the swimming pool.



Sam and Jane jumped right in.
They raced all the way
to the other end
of the pool.
Then they raced back.



Grandpa jumped in.
Then he jumped up and down.
Each time he came down
he called out,
“Brrrrrrrrrrrr!”

Mr. Brown bounced up and down
on the diving board.



Mrs. Brown sat in the sun
and turned bright red.

“It is very nice here today,”
said Jane.

“It will be even nicer on Tuesday,”
said the man with the broom.

“Why?” asked Sam.

“Why?” asked Grandpa.

“Why?” asked Mr. Brown.

“Why?” asked Mrs. Brown.

“On Tuesday,”
said the man with the broom,
“there will be water
in the pool.”



2. Sam and Jane Go Camping

Sam and Jane
were camping out.
When it got dark,
they made a big fire
and told stories.



“This is a story
about Bill, the ghost dog,”
said Jane.

“It is a *very* scary story.”

“I hope so,” said Sam.

“Once upon a time,” said Jane,
“there was a big white dog
named Bill.

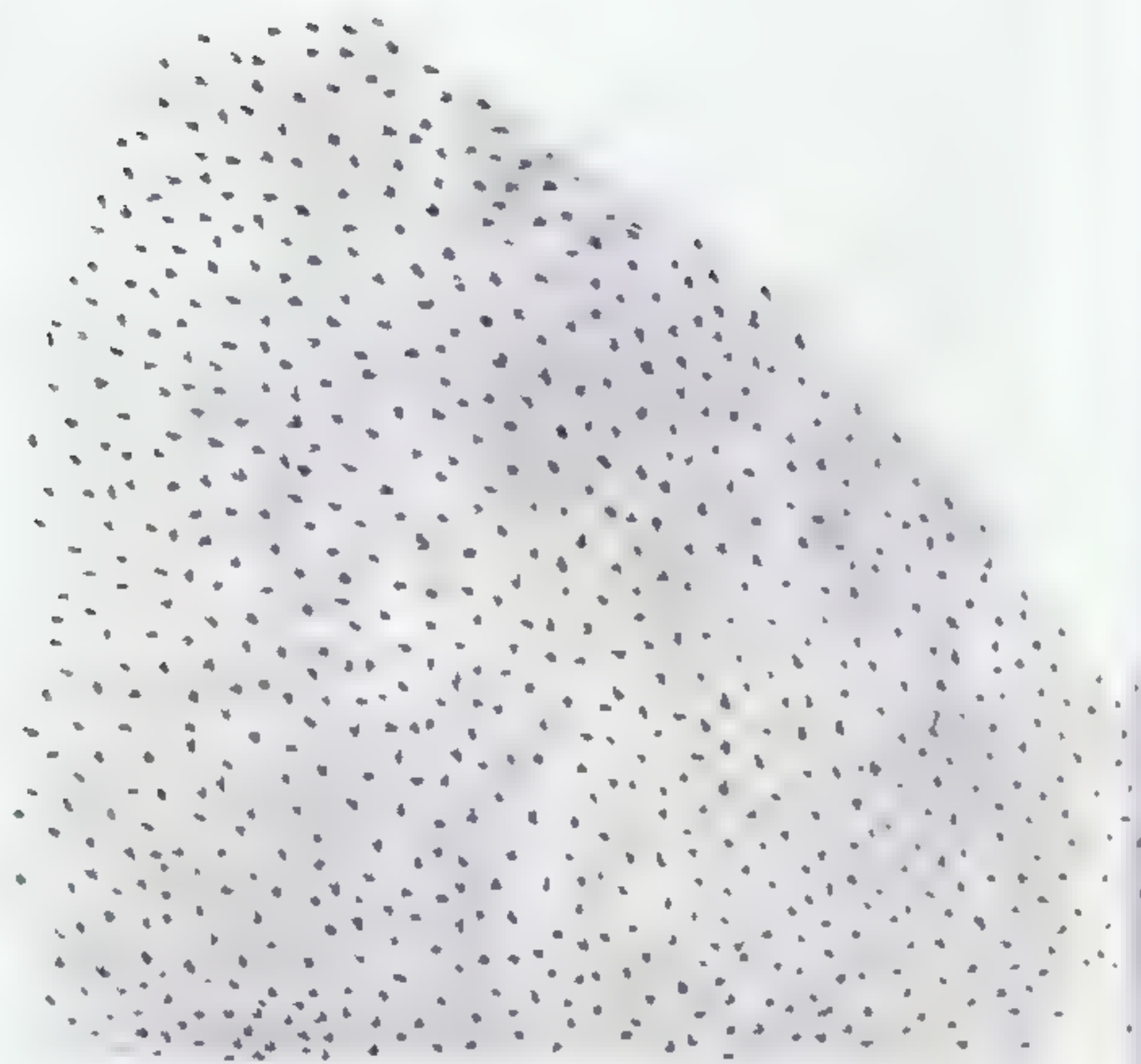
Bill had a very mean owner.
He wouldn’t feed Bill
or pet him
or anything.
Then one night—”



Suddenly Jane stopped.
She heard a strange sound.
Hmmmmmmm!
Hmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm!
HMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMMM!
It was getting louder
and louder.



“Ouch!” cried Sam.
“Something bit me!”
“Ouch!” yelled Jane.
“Something bit me, too!”



“It’s a bunch of mosquitoes!”
yelled Sam.

They jumped up and down
and ran around

and waved their arms.

But the mosquitoes
would not go away.

“Let’s put out the fire,”
whispered Sam.

“They’ll never find us
in the dark.”



They put out the fire
and sat down on a rock.

A mosquito flew by,
then disappeared.

It was as quiet as a graveyard.

“They are gone!”

whispered Jane.

“I think so,”

whispered Sam.



Then some fireflies flew by.

“Oh, no!” Sam groaned.

“They are back!

And now they are looking for us
with flashlights.”



3. Mr. Brown Washes His Underwear

On Saturday

Mr. Brown washed
his dirty clothes.

He washed his socks,
his shirts,
and his underwear.





Then he hung them up to dry
in the backyard.

He hung the underwear
in the apple tree.



When the wind blew,
the underwear waved its arms
and kicked its legs.
It looked like a dancing ghost.



After supper that night,
Mrs. Brown looked out the window.
“There is a man in the apple tree,”
she told Mr. Brown.
“Don’t worry,” he said.
“I will scare him away.”

Mr. Brown went into the yard.
He called out,
“Who are you?
What do you want?”
Nobody answered.





Mr. Brown got angry.

“You are *very* rude
not to answer me,”

he shouted.

But still there was no answer.

He called out again,
“Who are you?
What do you want?”
Again nobody answered.





So Mr. Brown picked a ripe tomato,
and he threw it
at the man in the tree.



Then he threw another—
and another,
and another.
“That will show you!” he shouted.

The next morning,
he went outside
to get his clothes.
When he got to the apple tree,
he was very surprised.
His underwear was covered
with squashed tomatoes,
and it was dripping
tomato juice.
“I am really lucky
I wasn’t wearing
that underwear,”
Mr. Brown said to himself.



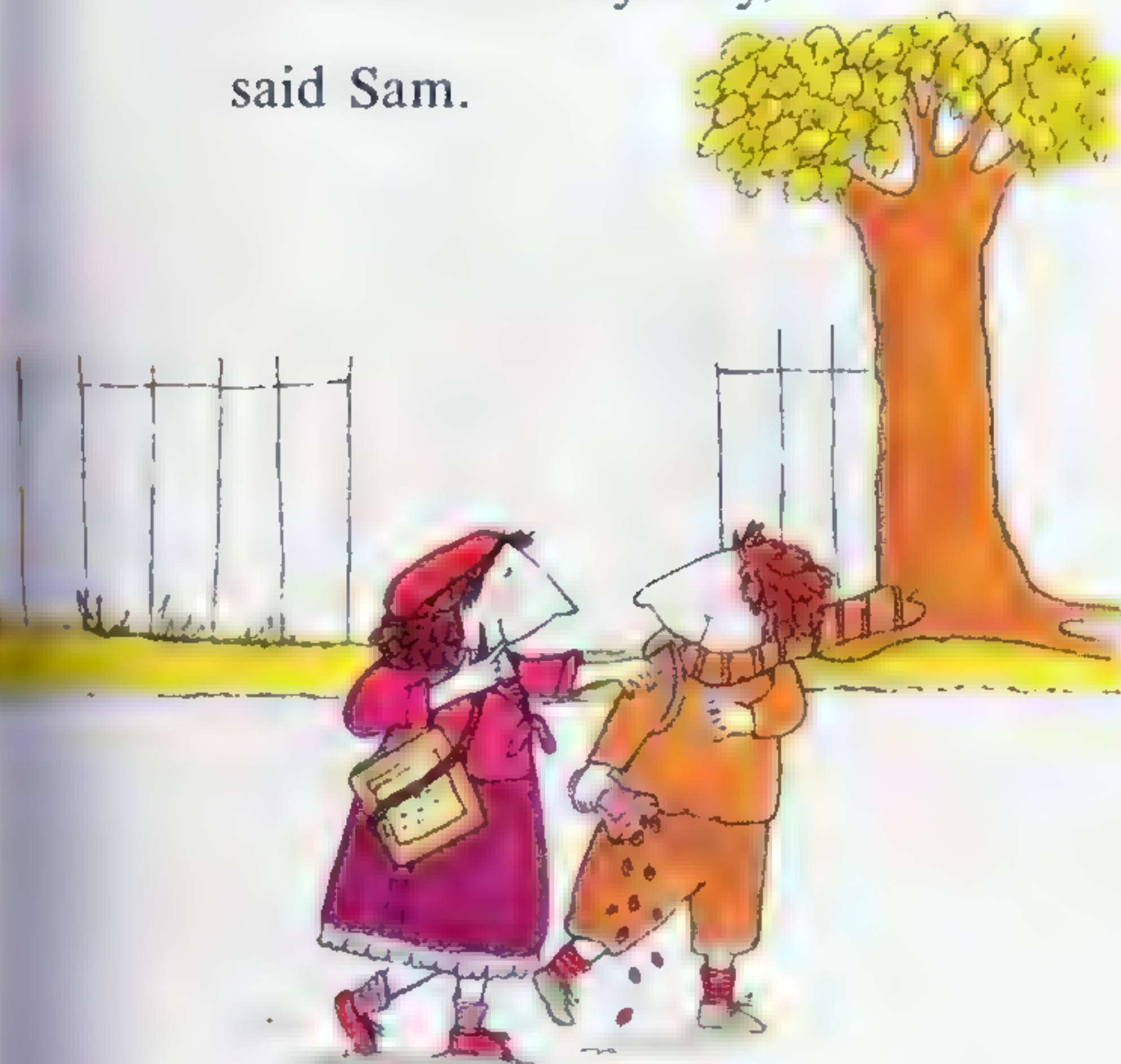


4. Jane Grows a Carrot

Jane and Sam
were walking home
from school.

“I have a secret to tell you,”
said Jane.

“I won’t tell anybody,”
said Sam.





“There is a carrot in my ear,”
said Jane.

“It has been growing there
all week.”

“That is *very* strange,” said Sam.

“How did that happen?”

“I don’t know,” said Jane.

“I planted radishes.”



5. Grandpa Buys a Pumpkin Egg

After breakfast

Grandpa took a long walk.

In front of the grocery store
he saw a big pile of pumpkins.

“What are those big round things?”
he asked the grocer.



“Don’t you know?”
the grocer asked him.

“I don’t think so,”
said Grandpa.

The grocer smiled.

“They are horse eggs,” he said.

“You put one in a sunny place
and sit on it for a day
and a night,
and it will hatch
a baby horse.”

“I bet Sam would like one!”
Grandpa thought.

“Okay,” he said,
“give me the biggest one.”



When Grandpa got home,
he put the pumpkin
in the backyard.



Then he went into the kitchen
and got
a chicken leg,
a hard-boiled egg,
some jelly beans,
and some lemonade.
“Now I won’t get hungry,”
he said to himself.



Then he sat on the pumpkin,
and he waited.

He sat all that day,
and he sat all that night.



By the next morning
he was so tired
he fell asleep
and fell off the pumpkin.





When that happened,
the pumpkin started rolling
down the hill.

It rolled and it rolled
until it crashed
into a bush.

A rabbit was sitting
inside the bush.





When the pumpkin rolled in,
the rabbit jumped out
and started running.

Grandpa saw the rabbit,
and he got very excited.

“Come back, little horse!”
he called.

“Come back!”

But the rabbit kept running.



Grandpa went to see the grocer again.

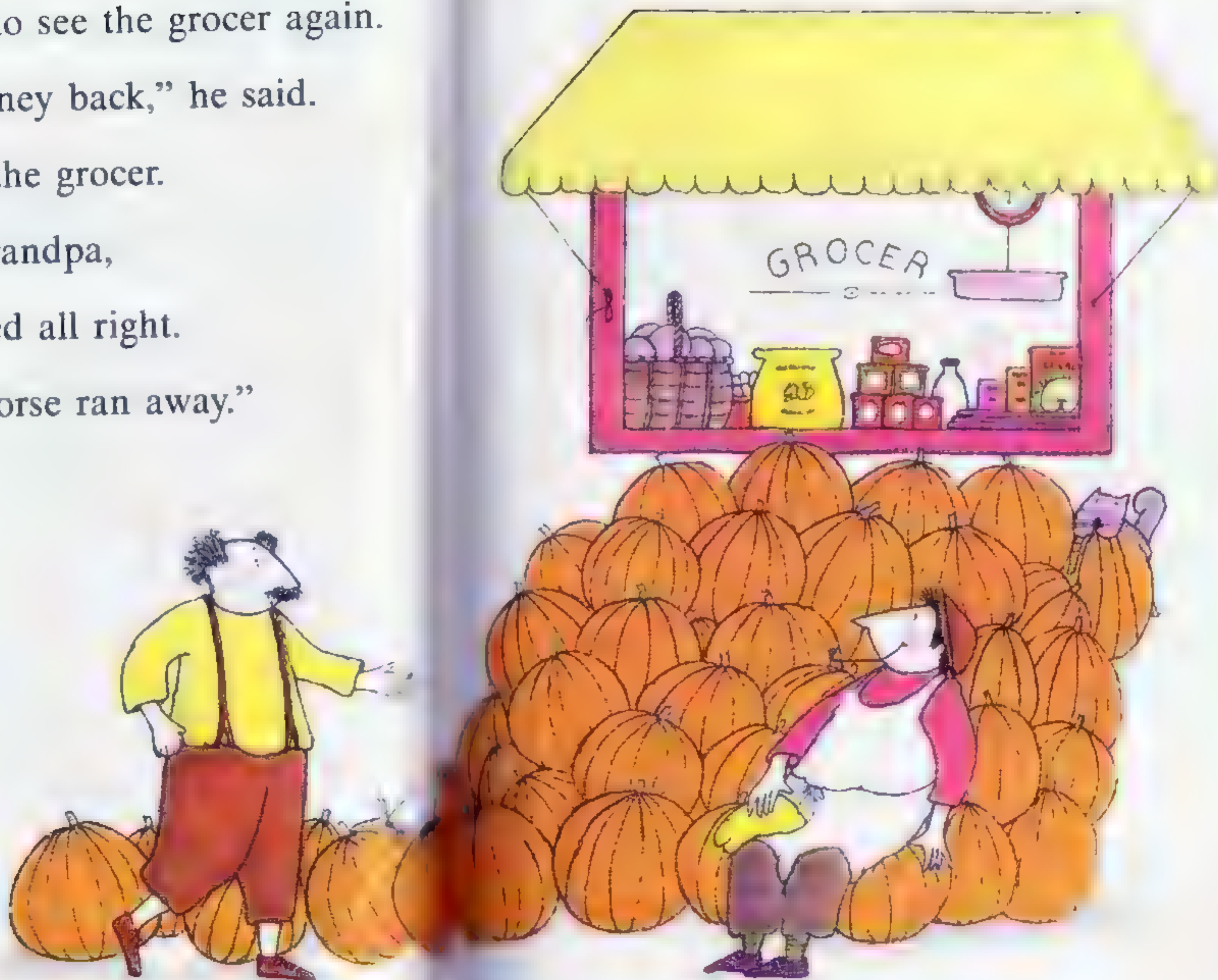
"I want my money back," he said.

"Why?" asked the grocer.

"Well," said Grandpa,

"the egg hatched all right.

But the baby horse ran away."





6. It Is Time to Go to Sleep

“It is ten o’clock,”

Mrs. Brown called out.

“Time to go to sleep!”

“I am taking my ruler to bed,”
said Sam.

“I want to know
how long I sleep.”





"I am taking my bicycle to bed,"
said Jane.

"I am tired of walking
in my sleep."

"I am taking
my running shoes to bed,"
said Mr. Brown.

"Last night I dreamed
a bear was chasing me,
and I don't want him
to catch me."



"I am taking my mirror to bed,"
said Grandpa.

"I want to see how I look
when I'm asleep."



Then Mr. Brown
said to Mrs. Brown,
"Put the light out
and come to bed."

So Mrs. Brown
put the light out
and came to bed.

And they all went to sleep.



Author's Note

Each of the tales in this book is based on an older noodle tale.

"The Browns Take the Day Off" is from an American "Little Moron" story of the 1940s and 1950s.

"Sam and Jane Go Camping" is from a firefly tale told in Europe and America.

"Mr. Brown Washes His Underwear" is based on a story about the famous Turkish noodle Khoja Nasreddin.

"Jane Grows a Carrot" is from an American vaudeville joke.

"Grandpa Buys a Pumpkin Egg" is based on "The Mare's Egg," a traditional tale told in Europe and America.

"It Is Time to Go to Sleep" is drawn from five noodle tales. "The Ruler" and "The Bicycle" are from "Little Moron" stories. "The Dream" is an ancient Greek tale. "The Mirror" and "Putting the Light Out" are told in Europe and America.

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In a Dark, Dark Room • Schwartz
There Is a Carrot in My Ear • Schwartz
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An I Can Read Book®

Meet the silliest family in the world!

Grandpa Brown tries to hatch a baby horse. Mr. Brown shouts at his underwear. And Jane Brown grows a carrot in her ear (she planted a radish). Here are six stories to make you giggle and laugh.

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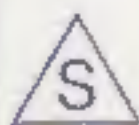
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